



# *City of Cambridge Police Department*

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**Robert C. Haas**  
*Police Commissioner*

**Robert W. Healy**  
*City Manager*

July 12, 2010

Robert W. Healy  
City Manager

Re: City Council Order No. 12, dated June 12, 2010

Dear Sir:

As requested I am responding to the above Council Order regarding the homeless population at Flagstaff Park. During June of 2010 representatives from various City Departments met to discuss the issue of the homeless population at Flagstaff Park. The discussion centered not only on the homeless, but the erection of tents and more permanent structures within the park. The Cambridge Police Department reported that there were five (5) homeless persons residing in the park and had erected three (3) tents and one other structure.

The City Solicitor's Office researched the location and determined that Flagstaff Park was considered part of the Cambridge Common and was within an historic district. They also determined that the City prohibits the erection of structures, temporary or otherwise, within historic districts. At the direction of the City Solicitor's Office the department was instructed to inform the group of individuals residing at Flagstaff Park of this prohibition and that they must break down their structures and vacate the location.

On June 21, 2010 Officer Helberg met with the homeless population at Flagstaff Park to inform them that they must leave, they understood and said that they would do so within forty-eight (48) hours. On June 24<sup>th</sup> Officer Helberg returned to Flagstaff Park to discover it vacated and the Department of Public Works removed all refuse. The Park and Recreation Department has erected a sign at the south entrance to the park which spells out the proper use of the park. The Cambridge Police Department will continue to monitor this location.

If you require additional information please contact me.

Sincerely, \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert C. Haas", written over a dotted line.

Robert C. Haas  
Police Commissioner

RCH/bk